AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figures 1-5 have been amended as requested by the Examiner.

REMARKS

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant respectfully draws the Examiner's attention to the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith.

Objections to the Drawings

Five replacement figures (Figs. 1-5) are included in this response. The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. No changes to the figures are thought to be needed, because the claimed feature is thought to be understood by those skilled in the art. However, the feature of "data communications link" recited in Claims 2, 10, 21, 26 and 34 is illustrated in the amended drawings. No new matter is added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Office Action fails to establish that claims 1, 3-9, 11, 12, 14, 16-19, 25, 27-29, 31-33, 35, 36, 38 and 39 are anticipated under 35 USC §102(b) by U.S. patent 6,166,559 to McClintock et al. (hereinafter "McClintock"). The rejection is traversed because the Office Action does not establish that all the limitations are taught by McClintock.

As to claims 1 and 25, the claims include limitations of and related to recording data for each PLD (either defect data or device specific data), the data including a unique identifier for each PLD; maintaining a database of the device data; receiving a first identifier from a user; and providing to the user device data from the database corresponding to the first identifier. The Office Action does not show that McClintock teaches these limitations.

The cited portions of McClintock neither teach nor suggest the claim limitations, and it is not apparent how the cited teachings could be reasonably construed to teach the claim limitations. For example, the unique identifiers are stored with device data for a plurality of PLDs, and neither McClintock's cited FIG. 2 nor the accompanying description make any reference to storing in a database data for a plurality of devices

and identifiers of the devices. McClintock's FIG. 2 shows input of programming data (70) to a single PLD, which neither requires nor suggests a plurality of device identifiers. McClintock's *redundancy configuration data storage* (64) stores manufacturer-provided data that is used by a particular PLD to redirect programming data into a redundant logic area (col. 5, l. 63). Again, there is no apparent relevance to a plurality of device identifiers.

The claims are also clear in stating that the data for a plurality of devices are stored in a database and data for one of the devices are provided to a user based on a received identifier. The cited elements of McClintock (FIG. 2, #66, 70; FIG. 3, #150) do not appear to reasonably suggest these limitations. For example, it is not understood how input of programming data to a PLD is suggestive of receiving a device identifier from a user. Furthermore, McClintock's element 150 is a defect (col. 9, l. 55), not an identifier of a device.

For at least the reasons set forth above, claims 1 and 25 are not shown to be anticipated by McClintock.

Claims 9 and 33 include the above-described limitations of and related to providing an identifier of a PLD, and obtaining device-specific data used in implementing the design. It is respectfully submitted that the cited teachings of McClintock show data that identify defects within a particular PLD. McClintock neither shows nor suggests an identifier of a particular PLD being used to obtain the device-specific data.

Claims 3 and 4 depend from independent claim 1, and claims 11 and 12 depend from independent claim 9. For at least the reasons set forth above for the independent claims, the Office Action does not show that claims 3-4 and 11-12 are anticipated by McClintock.

Claims 5-6, 27-28, and 35 further refine the limitations of and related to use of an identifier of a PLD. The Office Action does not recognize the distinction between McClintock's designated defect and the claimed identifier of a device. Therefore, as explained above, McClintock is not shown to anticipate.

Claims 7, 16, 29, and 36 depend from the various independent claims discussed above. Therefore, claims 7, 16, 29, and 36 are not shown to be anticipated by McClintock.

Claims 8, 14, 17-19, 24, 30-32, and 38-39 depend from the various independent claims discussed above. The Office Action does not assert specific correspondences between all the limitations of these claims and specific elements of McClintock. Nor is it apparent that McClintock teaches the claim limitations. If the rejection is maintained, an explanation of the specific elements of McClintock that are thought to correspond to the specific limitations of the claims is respectfully requested. Otherwise, Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 23 depends from independent claim 20, which is not identified as being anticipated by McClintock. Therefore, claim 23 is not shown to be anticipated.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Office Action does not establish that claims 2, 10, 13, 15, 20-24, 26, 30, 34 and 37 are unpatentable under 35 USC §103(a) over McClintock.

The Office Action acknowledges that the limitations of the claims 13, 15, 20, and 22 are not taught by McClintock. However, the Office Action alleges that modifying McClintock to "perform an incremental compilation ... for the purpose of generating a second design file" would have been obvious "so as to avoid extra development cost and time associated with new program development." However, this alleged motivation is conclusory and therefore improper. For example, the Office Action cites no evidence to support the assertion that extra development costs would be avoided. No evidence is provided to indicate how the incremental compilation avoids extra costs; no evidence is provided to indicate what extra costs are avoided; and no evidence is provided that indicates that new program development with McClintock is more costly than needed. The Office Action makes no apparent showing that the asserted modification could be made with a reasonable likelihood of success.

The Office Action further acknowledges that the limitations of the claims 2, 10, 21, 26, and 34 are not taught by McClintock, but alleges that modifying McClintock to

transmit and receive data over a communications link would have been obvious "so the user may have remote access to repair data associated with defective programmable logic devices." This alleged motivation is conclusory and therefore improper. The fact that communications over a network is known in no way suggestive of all possible specific applications of network communications. The Office Action ignores the contextual limitations surrounding the user of the communications link. The Office Action ignores the limitations that the identifier of a PLD is received via the network so as to provide the proper information set for configuring the PLD. Furthermore, McClintock teaches away from remote access to repair data because in McClintock the *manufacturer* provides the redundancy configuration data along with the PLD (col. 5, l. 65). McClintock's manufacturer has no need for an identifier received over a communications link from a user. There is also no apparent showing that the modification could be made with a reasonable likelihood of success.

The Office Action acknowledges that McClintock does not teach the limitations of claims 30 and 37. The limitations state that the device-specific information provided to a user, in response to receipt of an identifier of a PLD from the user, includes information relating to the speed of various sub-components of the PLD. The Office Action alleges that modifying McClintock to include these limitations would be obvious in order "to avoid elaborate speed calculation." The Office Action again ignores the context of the speed information. That is, the speed information is provided in response to the user providing an identifier of a device. Furthermore, because McClintock's system describes input of programming data to a particular device (FIG. 2), the provision of speed data at that stage of programming the device would appear to have little or no benefit. There is also no apparent showing that the modification could be made with a reasonable likelihood of success.

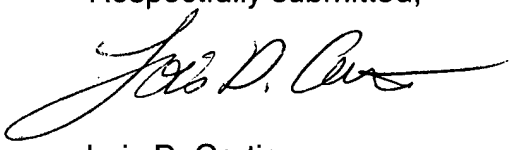
Having failed to show all the limitations of claims 2, 10, 13, 15, 20-24, 26, 30, 34 and 37 to be suggested by McClintock, having not presented a proper motivation for modifying McClintock to include the limitations of these claims, and having not shown any reasonable likelihood of successfully modifying McClintock, the Office Action has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action does not specifically provide any motivations for modifying McClintock to include the limitations of claims 23 and 24, nor are the limitations of the base claim shown to be suggested by McClintock. Therefore, the Office Action does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for claims 23-24.

CONCLUSION

The Office Action fails to establish that the pending claims are anticipated in view of the cited references. Reconsideration and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested in view of the Remarks presented above. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

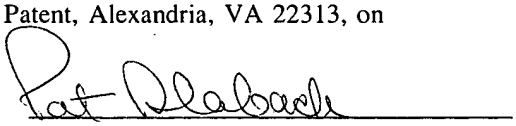
Respectfully submitted,



Lois D. Cartier
Agent for Applicant
Reg. No.: 40,941
(720) 652-3733

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patent, Alexandria, VA 22313, on November 23, 2004.

Pat Slaback
Name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